

REMARKS

The Examiner's continued attention to the present application is noted with appreciation.

35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The Examiner rejected claims 19, 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claims the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner stated that "the tape width direction" and "the longitudinal direction" had an insufficient antecedent basis in claim 19. Applicant has amended claim 19 to add an "a" before the phrases. The Examiner also stated that "spacing between adjacent grooves" in line 1 of claims 21 and 22 has an insufficient antecedent basis. Applicant has amended these claims to add an "a" before the phrases.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner rejected claims 19-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kase (U.S. Patent 5,861,348). This rejection is respectfully traversed, particularly in light of amended independent claim 19.

Applicant's claim 19 recites:

An adhesive tape comprising: a stretch base material; an adhesive layer comprising a plurality of rectilinear grooves disposed on said base material, wherein said grooves extend in the tape width direction and are arranged in an array configuration in the longitudinal direction of said tape; said grooves not containing adhesive thereby facilitating breathability; and said grooves not extending across the entire width of said tape but having adhesive between said grooves. (emphasis added)

Nowhere does Kase disclose or even contemplate an adhesive tape comprising rectilinear grooves that extend in the tape width direction and are arranged in an array configuration in the longitudinal direction of the tape as recited in Applicant's claims. In sharp contrast, Kase teaches "pressure-sensitive adhesive layers are formed so that they meander left and right along the length of the tape". See Kase Abstract. Kase further teaches, "a plurality of

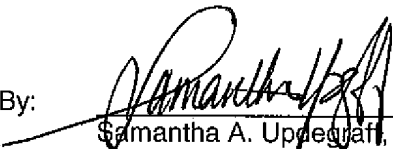
wavy strip-shaped pressure-sensitive adhesive layers". See Col. 6, lines 31-32. Thus, Kase fails to disclose Applicant's claimed rectilinear grooves that extend in the tape width direction and are arranged in an array configuration in the longitudinal direction, since the adhesive layer in Kase is curved or wave shaped. The wave shaped adhesive layers of Kase curve down the longitudinal direction of the tape, which is opposite of Applicant's recited rectilinear grooves. None of Kase's wave shapes include rectilinear grooves that extend in the width direction of the tape, as recited by Applicant. Therefore, Kase fails to teach each and every element of Applicant's recited claims.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all grounds of rejection have been traversed. It is believed that the case is now in condition for allowance and same is respectfully requested.

Authorization is given to charge payment of any additional fees required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Acct. 13-4213.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner believes that prosecution of this application might be expedited by discussion of the issues, the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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